



610

HF Happenings

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iau.org www.iau-r1.org



June
2014

Summits on the Air

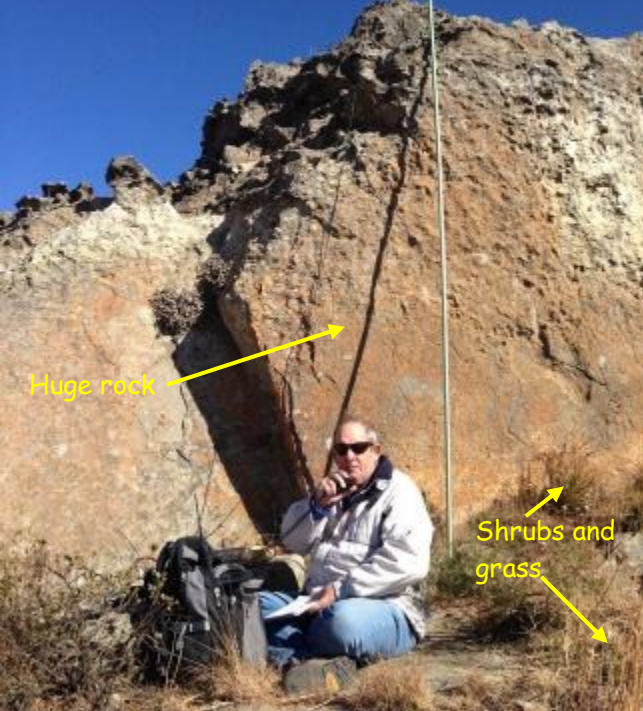
On Saturday 14 June 2014, the first HF and first UHF summit-to-summit QSOs in South Africa took place.

Willie, ZS6WBT, on Wynberg, ZS/MP-005 and Dennis, ZS4BS, on Mount Paul, ZS/FS-012 made the HF QSO. The contact was made at 09:09 UTC on 7 090 kHz SSB with 59 signals both way. I went on to make 7 more QSOs with the other members of the Secunda ARC team on Wynberg, I missed out on Detlev, ZS6BAB!

At 10:13 UTC the UHF summit-to-summit QSO was made on 437,900 MHz FM via the parrot repeater on-board the HABEX balloon. Gert, ZS6GC, on Wynberg, ZS/MP-005 and Dennis, ZS4BS on Mount Paul, ZS/FS-102 made this QSO. Thank you to the HABEX team for your assistance!

The Secunda ARC team of Lucas, ZS6ACT, Magda, ZS6MMS, Gert, ZS6GC, Elna, ZS6EB, Christo, ZR6JLK, Detlev, ZS6BAB, Sid, ZS5AYC, Adele, ZS5APT, and Willie, ZS6WBT, activated Wynberg, ZS/MP-005 on Saturday 14 June. On Sunday 15

Dennis, ZS4BS, on Mount Paul using a FT-857 running 30 watts into an inverted V for 40 metres



June they activated Kanonkop, ZS/MP-007 and on Monday 16 June, they activated Ossewakop, ZS/MP-004.

Dennis, ZS4BS, activated Mount Paul, ZS/FS-012 on Saturday 14 June. I had planned to activate Platberg, ZS/FS-004 on Sunday 15 June, but the flu bugs gave me problems. On Monday afternoon 16 June, on our way back to Bloemfontein, I activated Surrender Hill, ZS/FS-013.

Pierre, ZS6A, had plans to activate Perdekop, ZS/GP-001 on Saturday 14 June. He was on site and set-up everything, but was then thwarted by a power cable.

And I also had problems with my activation! I packed my rucksack with all the goodies for SOTA and then started to pack our luggage into the car. When we stopped at The Cabin, just south of Clocolan, Carina asked

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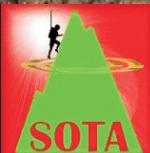
Have **YOU** done anything today to Promote Amateur Radio?

June

1 - Comrades Marathon
5 - 80th birthday of my Mother-in-law; World Environmental Day
8 - ZS4 Sprint; World Oceans Day; Pentecost
14 and 15 - Calitzdorp Port and Wine Festival
15 - Father's Day
16 - Youth Day
17 - World QRP Day
19 to 22 - SARL Top Band QSO Party
21 - Radio Technology in Action in Durban
27 - Schools close
27 to 29 - Ham Radio 2014 in Friedrichshafen, Germany; Wildsfees, Kirkwood
28 - Start of Ramadan
28 and 29 - ARRL Field Day

July

12 and 13 - IARU HF Championships; WRTC 2014
19 - Winter QRP Contest
21 - Schools open
26 and 27 - RSGB IOTA Contest
28 - Eid-ul-Fitr



Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org
And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk and www.zs4bfn.co.za/sota.asp

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me about the rucksack. I had left it in Bloemfontein! Thank goodness there is always a 40 metre antenna and portable mast in the boot of the car. The SLAB was also in the boot and I have a FT-857 in the car. So I could SOTA!

SARL Top Band QSO Party

This is a fun activity to promote contacts on 160 metres between radio amateurs in Southern African countries and to encourage radio amateurs to apply for the South African Radio League's Top Band Certificate. The QSO Party is open to all licensed amateurs that have access to the 160 metre band.

The QSO Party runs from 00:00 UTC on Thursday 19 June 2014 to 00:00 UTC on Sunday 22 June 2014. The following modes and frequencies must be used - Phone: 1 840 to 1 850 kHz and CW 1 810 to 1 838 kHz

The exchange is a RS(T) report and provincial or country abbreviation. Following the QSO, the station must change **dial** frequency by at least 2 KHz for the next QSO, unless a period of 10 minutes has lapsed between contacts. The frequency of each QSO must be shown on the log sheet.

Each station can be worked once per mode i.e. once on Phone and again with CW. Each contact will count three (3) points. Each South African call area and each DXCC country worked will be awarded with five (5) additional bonus points. Total Score = (Total QSO points) + (Bonus points). Log sheets must be submitted by 30 June 2014 to contest@sarl.org.za.

SARL Top Band Certificate. Its aim is to encourage more 160 m QSOs with southern African countries. South African stations must submit proof of having contacted at least six different southern African call areas, of which at least five must be in the Republic of South Africa. The sixth contact can be from the remaining South African call area (ZS), or from any of the bordering countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland or Zimbabwe).



IARU HF Championships

The objective is to contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metre bands. No contest QSOS on 12, 17, 30 or 60 metres. On any band, a station may be worked once on Phone (in the Phone segment) and once on CW (in the CW segment).

The contest takes place on the second full weekend of July, beginning 12:00 UTC Saturday and ending 12:00 UTC Sunday - 12 and 13 July 2014. Both Single and Multi operator stations may operate the entire 24-hour period.

The contest exchange - IARU member society HQ stations send signal report and official IARU member society abbreviation. IARU International Secretariat club station NU1AW counts as a HQ station. Members of the IARU Administrative Council and the three IARU regional Executive committees send "AC," "R1," "R2," and "R3" as appropriate. All others send signal report and ITU zone. A complete exchange must be logged for each valid QSO.



The call sign ZS9HQ was assigned to the SARL by ICASA and will be operated from the National Amateur Radio Centre during the IARU HF championships. SARL President, Geoff Levey, ZS6C is inviting radio amateurs to join him at the NARC to man the station. Please send an email to Geoff at contest@sarl.org.za with your call sign and contact details. He will contact you to discuss the operational schedule.

The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) takes place over the same weekend, at the same time and frequencies. WRTC is a competition between two-person teams of amateur radio amateurs testing their skills to make contacts with other radio amateurs around the world over a 24 hour period. Unlike most on-the-air competitions, all stations are required to use identical antennas from the same geographic region, eliminating

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all variables except operating ability. WRTC-2014 will include 59 competing teams from 29 qualifying regions around the world. This will be the largest and most competitive WRTC ever! No team from South Africa has been entered however South Africa will be represented by two referees, Bernie van der Walt, ZS4TX, and Chris Burger, ZS6EZ.

WRTC-2014 Chase

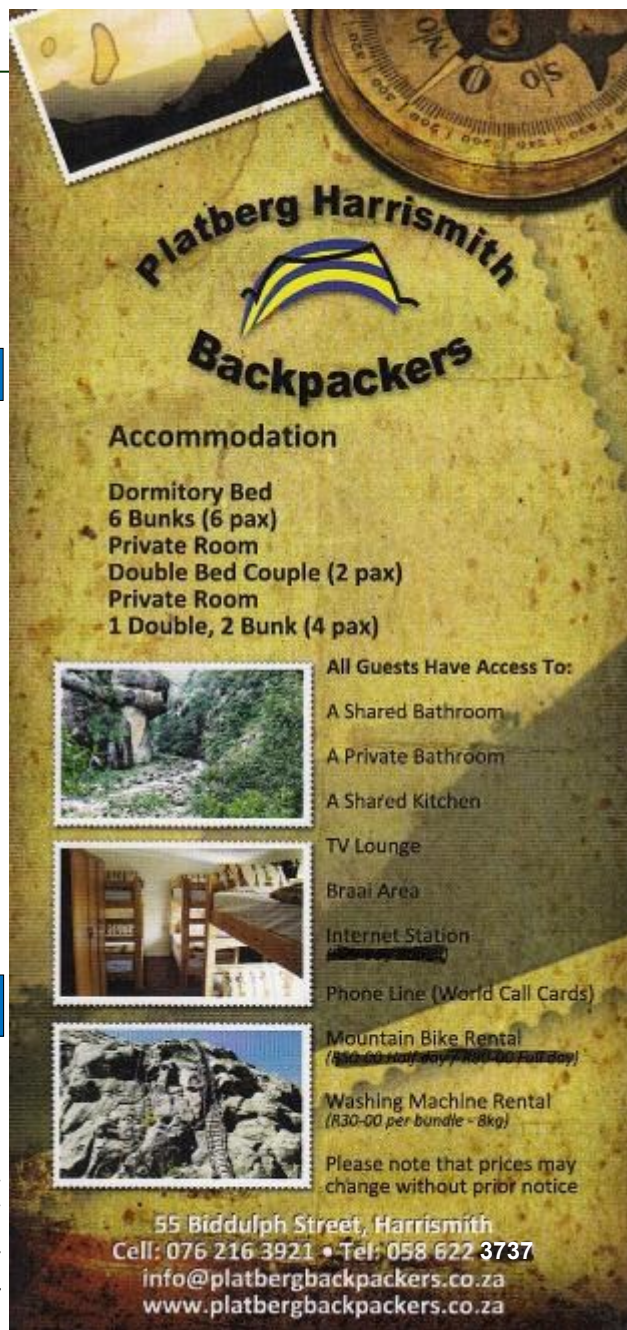
Everyone is encouraged to work the World Radio-sport Team Championship teams on as many bands and modes as possible. All contacts with WRTC-2014 stations will be confirmed by QSL card via the bureau for DX stations and direct to US stations. All contacts will also be confirmed through ARRL's Logbook of the World. As an added incentive, each QSO with a WRTC team counts 5 points for the ARRL Centennial QSO Party. The "WRTC2014 Chase" will run concurrently with the IARU HF Championship beginning on 121 July at 12:00 UTC. Any station that appears in all 59 WRTC team logs will be able to download a certificate from the WRTC-2014 Web site after the contest. Complete rules for the WRTC-2014 activity award program are available at <http://www.wrtc2014.org/competition/participation-awards/>

African Islands

FT4, Tromelin. The FT4TA Tromelin Island DXpedition team has recently updated their Pilot stations listing. The Pilot stations are the following: Chief Pilot - Col, MMONDX; JA and Asia Pilot - Harumi, JR4OZR; EU and AF Pilot - Bjorn, ON9FCG; NA East and SA Pilot - Don, N1DG; NA West Pilot - John, K6MM, and OC Pilot - Lee, ZL2AL. For the complete details which include where the NA East-West border-line is drawn, visit <http://www.tromelin2014.com/en/pilots>

Just to recap, a team of 6 operators will be active as FT4TA from Tromelin between 30 October and 10 November. They plan to have 4 stations on the air for 10 days, on 160 to 10 metres using SSB, CW and RTTY. An online log will be available during the DXpedition. For more details, visit <http://www.tromelin2014.com>

Flo, F5CWU, posted on the FT4TA Web page: "A big step in the preparation of our operation has been done with sending three boxes containing the equipment. They are en route to Marseilles, where they will be shipped at the end of the month on a boat to the island of Réunion. This puts an end to several intensive weeks devoted to the manufacture of antennas and other equipment that we had to test, weigh and pack. However, the list of tasks to be performed is still long and the whole team is mobilized on different folders." Pictures of the team packing equipment can be see at <http://www.tromelin2014.com/en/news/shipment-of-our-equipment/>



Platberg Harrismith Backpackers

Accommodation

- Dormitory Bed
- 6 Bunks (6 pax)
- Private Room
- Double Bed Couple (2 pax)
- Private Room
- 1 Double, 2 Bunk (4 pax)

All Guests Have Access To:

- A Shared Bathroom
- A Private Bathroom
- A Shared Kitchen
- TV Lounge
- Braai Area
- Internet Station
- Phone Line (World Call Cards)
- Mountain Bike Rental (R300.00 half day / R600.00 Full day)
- Washing Machine Rental (R30.00 per bundle - 8kg)

Please note that prices may change without prior notice

55 Biddulph Street, Harrismith
Cell: 076 216 3921 • Tel: 058 622 3737
info@platbergbackpackers.co.za
www.platbergbackpackers.co.za

African DX

Lesotho, 7P8. Gerry, 7P8CC, has now gone QRT from his QTH in Maseru. Gerry was the Irish ambassador in Lesotho the past four years. Gerry hopes to get his EI8CC station up and running again soon. Hans, PB2T, and I paid a visit to Gerry and his wife Ann in 2013 at their home in Maseru.

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New mode trial for VK medium wave beacon

The popular CW beacon at VK3FI beacon at Mildura in north-western Victoria, Australia, on the 630 metre band just below the AM broadcast allocation heard throughout VK and in ZL, has now changed to try the QRSS-3 a very slow weak signal mode.

It is using the new mode in the 472 - 479 kHz band on a frequency of 473 kHz for a few weeks and may be detected a lot further afield. The beacon is on air during local night darkness with switch-on by 09:00 UTC most nights. It is only on when Noel Fergusson, VK3FI, is present.

Some antenna improvements are planned later and the VK3FI beacon will resume then with 12-words-per-minute CW transmissions. All reception reports please to vk3fi@wia.org.au

2014 WPX CW Contest

The raw claimed scores for the 2014 WPX CW Contest <http://www.cqwpw.com/claimed.htm?mode=cw> are now available online, showing raw scores as calculated by the WPX log checking software prior to any checking. This should give participants a good indication of their category placement at the World, Continent, or Country level. Please check that your entry is in the correct category. Report any errors or questions to director@cqwpw.com. Do NOT resubmit your log to 'fix' any problems! It's not too late to send pictures or stories to be including in the final write-up. (Thanks, CQ WPX Contest Director, Terry N4TZ)

Operating Tip

Summertime propagation (or wintertime, if you are south of the Equator) has a variety of unique qualities. That band plan you made for CQ WW last fall - start over for the IARU HF Championship! This would be a good time to talk to veteran testers in your club about the primary DX openings in your area. You may be surprised but better *before* the contest than afterward.

Calculating guy line lengths

An Android app for calculating guy line lengths and other requirements has been developed by the Mastrant rope company. Using a specialized calculator is a good way to avoid those hasty last-minute runs to the hardware store on the Saturday morning of Field Day. <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=sk.pltechnology.antennaguying&hl=en>

Web Site of the Week

While the IBM PC kicked the personal computing revolution into high gear, it was the Apple II that launched it. The Apple II went on sale on 5 June 1977, and things were never the same again. <http://edn.com/electronics-blogs/edn-moments/4374613/Apple-II-goes-on-sale--June-5--1977>

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 16 to 23 June 2014

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 18 June and

03:00 - 04:00 UTC 19 June

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name, member no; non-Member:

Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 21 June 2014

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint

00:30 - 02:30 UTC 19 June

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

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Classes: (none)

Max power: <1 watt

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once

Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1,5 x if bug, 1 x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 22 June 2014

E-mail logs to: naqcc33@windstream.net

Upload log at: <http://naqcc.info/sprintlog.html>

Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA

Find rules at: <http://naqcc.info/sprint201406mw.html>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB

19:00 - 20:30 UTC 19 June

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 26 June 2014

Upload log at: <http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2014/r80mcc.shtml>

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 20 June

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 June 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint

Get on the RaDAR....and GO!

RADAR
GOES GLOBAL

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 20 June

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 22 June 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

All Asian DX CW Contest

00:00 UTC 21 June to 24:00 UTC 22 June

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Asian Single Op Single Band - high or low;

Non-Asian Single Op Single Band - high; JA Single Op

Multi Band - high, low, junior or silver; Asian Single

Op Multi Band - high or low; Non-Asian Single Op

Multi Band - high; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: RST and 2-digit age

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Asian Stations: DXCC entities once per band

non-Asian Stations: Asian prefixes once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 July 2014

E-mail logs to: aacw@jarl.org

Web-to-Cabrillo form: http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/aadxcw_cab3.php

Mail logs to: JARL, All Asian DX Contest, CW, 170-8073, Japan

Find rules at: https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2014AA_rule.htm

Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest

12:00 UTC 21 June to 11:59 UTC 22 June

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

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Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high; Single Op All Band 6-Hour; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single
 Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts
 Exchange: Ukraine: RST and 2-letter oblast; non-Ukraine: RST and serial no
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with different country, same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; non-UR Stations: 10 points per QSO with Ukraine
 Multipliers: UR Stations: each DXCC/WAE country once per band; non-UR Stations: each DXCC/WAE country once per band; non-UR Stations: each Ukraine oblast once per band
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 7 July 2014
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Upload log at: http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://urdx.org/rtty/rules.php?english>

Stew Perry Topband Challenge
 15:00 UTC 21 June to 15:00 UTC 22 June
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 160 m Only
 Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op
 Max operating hours: 14 hours
 Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 5 - 100 watts; QRP: <5 watts
 Exchange: 4-Character grid square
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO plus 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station
 Multipliers: Low power: x 1.5; QRP: x 3

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x power multiplier

Submit logs by: 7 July 2014

E-mail logs to: tbd@contesting.com

Mail logs to: BARC, 15125 SE Bartell Rd, Boring, OR 97009, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.kkn.net/stew/>

Kid's Day Contest

18:00 - 23:59 UTC 21 June

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, 2 m repeaters

Classes: (none)

Exchange: name and age and QTH and favourite color

Submit logs by: 21 July 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Mail logs to: (see rules)

Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>

Feld Hell Sprint

20:00 - 22:00 UTC 21 June

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 28 June 2014

Upload log at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/field-day-sprint>

ARRL Field Day 2014 is at Hand, and everyone is Invited!

If you have not already made plans to get on the air for ARRL Field Day 2014, *tick-tock, tick-tock*. It's just days away, but it's not too late to participate. Field Day 2014 is Saturday and Sunday 28 and 29 June. Field Day is the year's most popular operating event, and more than 35 000 radio amateurs will be setting up stations - sometimes multiple stations - in the field, at campsites, in public parks, and even on their decks or in their backyards to get in on the fun. Think of it as the first weekend of Amateur Radio's summer. Last year, more than 2 500 stations submitted entries.

Field Day is primarily a group activity, though, and if you're not yet on the roster to operate from your club's Field Day site, volunteer now! If you don't belong to a club or don't know if there's a Field Day operation setting up in your area, check the Field Day Locator to find one. Clubs welcome new operators, especially if they are willing to take

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the graveyard (overnight) shift or other less-desirable time slots or if they bring some special talent or expertise to the picnic table - top-notch CW proficiency, satellite expertise, or antenna skills.

If you'd rather just stay at home, you can operate your own station as is, and work stations in the field, or you can set up to operate from an emergency power source, such as a generator, batteries, or solar panels, and work everyone else. Field Day got its start in the 1930s as an emergency communication exercise, and that tradition continues today. Some stations will be on the air from emergency operations centres.

The object is simple: To work as many stations as possible on any and all Amateur Radio bands -- excluding 60, 30, 17, and 12 metres - and to learn to operate in less-than-optimal conditions. The camaraderie is special, and there's a place for operators at all skill levels - from newbies and even prospective licensees to grizzled veterans. Find *your* place at Field Day 2014, and enjoy Amateur Radio to the max!

Friedrichshafen Hosts 39th Annual International "Ham Radio" Exhibition

What some consider Europe's answer to Dayton Hamvention®, the 39th International "Ham Radio" exhibition, gets underway on 27 June in Friedrichshafen, on the shores of Lake Constance in southern Germany. Thousands of radio amateurs and electronics enthusiasts will converge on the Messe Friedrichshafen convention centre and surrounding fairgrounds for the event. Some 200 exhibitors and organizations from more than 2 dozen countries, including the ARRL, will be represented in the exhibit hall. The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) has chosen "Creative Amateur Radio - Build It Yourself" as the theme for this year's show.



"Building things yourself has played an important role in Amateur Radio for a long time," said DARC spokesman Axel Voigt, DO1ELL. "Building your own equipment has been part of Amateur Radio since the beginning. [T]he pioneers of Amateur Radio experimented, built their own equipment, optimized it, and laid the foundations upon which Amateur Radio operates today."

The ARRL team will be on hand to greet international visitors and to network with representatives of other national ham radio societies. "We're looking forward to bringing the ARRL Centennial celebration to our members in Europe," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. The League will offer DXCC card checking at its booth - a service very popular within the international ham radio community. Others on the seven-person ARRL team include ARRL International Affairs Vice President Jay Bellows, KOQB, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, and Assistant Member and Volunteer Programs Department Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ.

In its role as International Secretariat for the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), the ARRL will host a meeting area for IARU officials and friends at the convention. IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, will head the IARU delegation, which will include Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, IARU Secretary Rod Stafford, W6ROD, and IARU International Representative Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS.

"Sister Event"

In line with the show's theme, Ham Radio for the first time will share space on 28 and 29 June with Maker World <http://www.maker-world.de/>, as a "sister event." The pairing could boost overall attendance, which typically runs between 15,000 and 20,000 visitors. "The event will show off a wide range of individually designed products and ideas for hobbyists and tinkerers," a Ham Radio news release said. "These range from things like 3D printing to case 'modding,' when the appearance of a computer case is [visually] improved or changed, on up to 'upcycling,' in which everyday items which have outlived their useful lives are transformed for a new purpose."

Among other activities at Ham Radio, an Amateur Radio transmitter hunt will be held near the fairgrounds, and a balloon mission and a drift buoy project will be launched, both carrying payloads to collect data from the air and water. A ham radio youth camp will offer 100 young people an opportunity to experience the Ham Radio show up close.

The DARC will hold its 65th Lake Constance Conference during the weekend of Ham Radio. The Continent's biggest ham radio show will wrap up on 29 June.

Pierre, ZS6A, at Perdekop, ZS/GP-001 on Saturday 14 June. And then he was thwarted by a power cable!!

Summer Solstice on 21 June Inspires UK Special Event Station

Special event station [GB1JSS](#) will be active on HF, VHF, and Amateur Radio satellites during the summer solstice on Saturday 21 June - the longest annual period of daylight in the Northern Hemisphere. On that day there will be 16 hours, 38 minutes, 19 seconds of daylight. Members of the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) will operate from grid square JO01fq. GB1JSS will be on the air on 40 to 10 metres plus 2 metres on SSB, CW, PSK31 and RTTY. The day coincides

with the first half of the 50 MHz Trophy Contest, so there may be some 6 metre activity. Wind permitting, G3SUY hopes to deploy a kite supported antenna to use on 160 metres.

Special Spanish Prefixes to Mark Change of Monarch

To mark the passing of the crown on 18 June from King Juan Carlos, EA0JC, to his son, Felipe VI, Spanish Amateur Radio operators may use special prefixes between 18 June and 18 September.

EA stations may use the AM0# prefix, EB operators may use the AN0# prefix, and EC stations may use the AO0# prefix during the 3 month period.

For example EA9CD would be AM09CD, EB7DX would operate as AN07DX, and EC1KR would be AO01CR.

BAOFENG Rebrands to Pofung

Chinese radio manufacturer BAOFENG is rebranding its products under the "Pofung" label in international markets. The company said BAOFENG - a literal Pinyin translation of the company's Chinese character name - "may be difficult for a hobbyist across the ocean to pronounce." The company said the new name, Pofung, is easier to pronounce and more customer-friendly, while maintaining the brand's phonetic symbolism. Products for the domestic market in China will retain their current brand name and identity, and the company's web domain, www.baofengradio.com, will remain unchanged.

Next Weeks Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 25 June

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 25 June and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 26 June

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 June

His Majesty the King of Spain SSB Contest, 12:00 UTC 28 June to 12:00 UTC 29 June

Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest, 12:00 UTC 28 June to 12:00 UTC 29 June

ARRL Field Day, 18:00 UTC 28 June to 21:00 UTC 29 June

10-10 International Spirit of 76 QSO Party, 00:01 UTC 30 June to 24:00 UTC 6 July

History this Week, week starting 16 June 14

1178 - Five Canterbury monks report explosion on the moon (only such observation known)

1675 - Royal Greenwich Observatory established in England by Charles II

1893 - First Ferris wheel premieres (Chicago's Columbian Exposition)

1922 - Henry Berliner demonstrates his helicopter to US Bureau of Aeronautics

1931 - First photoelectric cell installed commercially West Haven, Ct

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslines, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL DX Newsletter, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC News, DxCoffee and the Islands, Castles & Portable Operations Bulletin